labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy as also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

Increase in the wages of the workers under minimum wages act

504. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an all out increase in the salaries of Government servants whereas there has been no such increase in the monthly wages of the workers coming under Minimum Wages Act;-and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to ensure increase in the monthly wages of the workers in the organised and unorganised sectors with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in the salaries of Central Government employees w.e.f. January 1, 1996 following acceptable by Government of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

(b) Wages in the organised sector are largely determined through bipartite negotiation and settlements. The wages in the scheduled employments in the unorganised sector are fixed & revised under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The State Governments/U.T. administrations have been requested to revise wages for scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act, every two years or on a rise of 50 points in Consumer Pricer Index number, whichever is earlier.

Workers partnership in unorganised and organised sectors

505. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken in respect of workers in unorganised sector to increase their partnership with the organised sector workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposed to do so to increase nation's production?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

Unemployment in the Country

506. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed youth in the country as on 31st March, 1998 as per the enrolment made in the live register of the states and the Central Employment Exchanges;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any time bound programme to remove unemployment from the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 28th February, 1998 (latest data available) was 390.67 lakh.

(b) and (c) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty.

Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors and sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rater of unemployment and underemployment.

देश में बाल श्रम

507. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
श्री रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस समय देश में ऐसे कुल कितने बाल श्रमिक हैं जिनकी आयु 14 वर्ष या इससे कम है;

(ख) सरकार ने अब तक इनमें से कितने बाल श्रमिकों को मुक्त करा कर उनके भोजन, आवास और शिक्षा संबंधी उचित सुविधाओं का प्रबंध किया है; और

(ग) शेष बाल श्रमिकों को मुक्त करा कर उन्हें समुचित जीवन जीने का अवसर मुहैया कराए जाने संबंधी समयावधि और सरकारी कार्यक्रम क्या है?

श्रम मंत्री (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया) : (क) 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार, देश में कार्य करने वाले बच्चों की संख्या 11.28 मिलियन थी।

(ख) और (ग) जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों में कार्यरत बच्चों का एक परियोजना आधारित दृष्टिकोण के माध्यम से पुनर्वास के लिए अगस्त, 1994 में एक महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रम की घोषणा की गयी थी। घोषणा की अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई के रूप में, अनेक कदम उठाए गए हैं, जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, राष्ट्रीय बाल श्रम परियोजनाओं की स्थापना किया जाना शामिल है। परियोजनाओं के अंतर्गत, अनौपचारिक शिक्षा, व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण, पोषणा-हार, स्वास्थ्य देख-रेख वजीफा आदि मुहैया करवाए जाने के लिए विशेष स्कूल खोले जाते हैं। जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों में कार्यरत बच्चों के पुनर्वास के लिए अभी तक 76 परियोजनाओं की मंजूरी प्रदान की गयी है।

बाल श्रम एक ऐसी सामाजिक-आर्थिक समस्या है जिसकी जड़ें बहुत गहराई तक हैं और जिसके लिए एक लम्बी अवधि तक सतत् प्रयास किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। अतः बाल श्रम के पूर्ण उन्मूलन के लिए कोई निश्चित समय-सीमा निर्धारित नहीं की जा सकती।

Labour based technology and unemployment

508. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage labour based technology for removing unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the state policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. Improvements in the quality of employment can be achieved only in a situation of rapidly growing productivity to which the labour can lay a just claim. Education and skill development will empower people to take advantage of employment opportunities. Special programmes will be implemented to develop skills, enhance technological levels and provide marketing channels for people engaged in traditional occupations.

Indian workers in Gulf countries

509. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens who have since returned to the country from the Gulf countries under the amnesty scheme;

(b) the estimated number of Indian workers still working in the Gulf countries;

(c) what is Government's existing policy for the export of man-power;

(d) whether Government contemplate any change in the existing policy to protect the interests of Indian labour in other countries; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) According to the available information, the number of Indian citizens who have since returned to India from the Gulf countries under the amnesty schemes are as below :—

1.	UAE	60,000
2.	Kuwait	2,500
3.	Saudi Arabia	50,000
4.	Bahrain	3,132
5.	Qatar	800
6.	Oman	5,576